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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUITION

Mammalia, Pilosa, Myrmecophagidae, *Tamandua tetradactyla* (Linnaeus, 1758): Distribution extension

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ABSTRACT: A new record of *Tamandua tetradactyla* at the coastal plain of the municipality of Rio Grande, Rio Grande do Sul State is reported based on a camera trap photograph. The environment where the animal was registered is congruent with other occurrence areas of the species, which prefers vegetation area with epiphytes and near to water. Since the area is an isolated fragment, additional surveys to evaluate the conservation status of population is necessary.

Tamandua tetradactyla (Linnaeus, 1758), popularly known as collared anteater, occurs in South America east side of the Andes, from Venezuela to northern Argentina and Uruguay (Wetzel 1982; 1985; Emmons and Feer 1990). Although it has not been listed as an endangered species by the IUCN, this species has been suffering local extinctions due to habitat destruction, road killing, hunting and dog attacks (Oliveira and Vilella 2003; Canevari and Vaccaro 2007). Many aspects concerning its ecology and biology are still unknown due to the difficulty on finding and monitoring these animals. In Brazil, there are records in all Brazilian biomes (Amazônia, Caatinga, Cerrado, Mata Atlântica and Campos Sulinos) (Fonseca *et al.* 1996). In the state of Rio Grande do Sul, *T. tetradactyla* is classified as vulnerable (Oliveira and Vilella 2003) among the threatened species. There are registers in extreme northwest (Kasper *et al.* 2007), southwest (Tavares and Koenemann 2008), and in forested foothills, southeastern of state (Alex Bager, personal observation). However, there was no record in the coastal plain.

Between 8 and 13 April 2009, eight camera traps were installed and kept for five days at the edge of a federal highway (BR 392) (31°58'19" S, 52°17'58" W), in municipality of Rio Grande, coastal plain of Rio Grande do Sul (Figure 1). The objective was to characterize the region's medium and large-sized mammals.

The area is characterized as a restinga forest (a subtype of Atlantic forest associated to coastal/sandy soils), and it is formed by two types of vegetation: dune forest and swamp forest. Dune forest presents dry soil, with an altitude between 8 and 12 meters, and the swamp forest has a superficial water table throughout most of the year and has an altitude of up to 6 meters above sea level (Costa et al. 2003). On 12 April 2009 an individual of *T. tetradactyla* was recorded on the dune forest (Figure 2), the highest portion of the area, at least 40 meters from the highway. It is the first record at the coastal plain of the state of Rio Grande do Sul; representing the most austral distribution of the species in Brazil.

The environment where the animal was registered is congruent with other occurrence areas of the species, which prefers vegetation area with epiphytes and near to

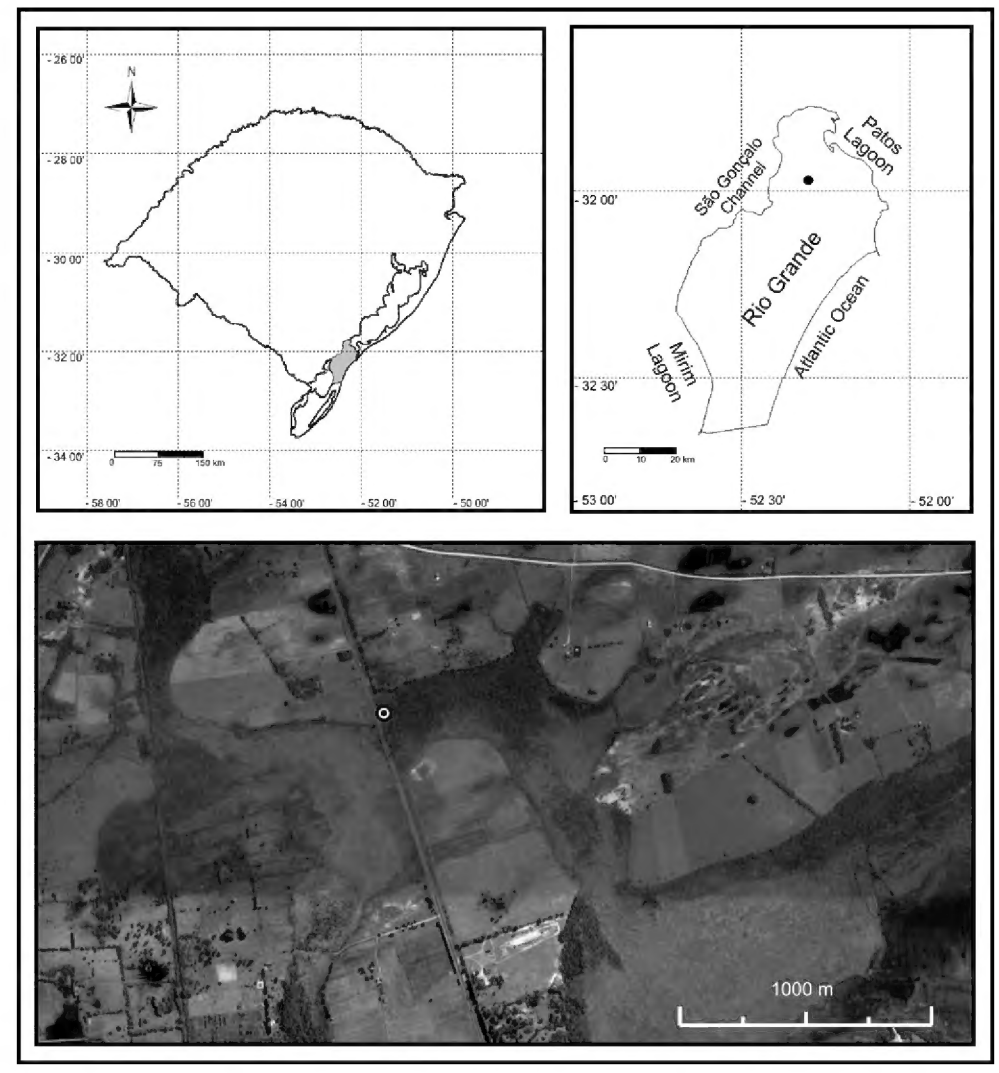

FIGURE 1. Location of the new record of *Tamandua tetradactyla* in the municipality of Rio Grande, at the coastal plains of the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

FIGURE 2. *Tamandua tetradactyla* recorded by camera trap at the coastal plain of the state of Rio Grande do Sul.

water (Paglia 1998). In Rio Grande do Sul, the population of T. tetradactyla has been declining, with the retraction of geographic distribution (Oliveira and Vilela 2003); therefore the register of its occurrence in a new geomorphologic region in this state is important for the species' conservation. The area is an isolated fragment, sectioned by a highway and close to urban area, requiring additional surveys to evaluate the conservation status of population.

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